vailing in these mines|industries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the State Government have taken a number of steps to improve the working conditions in the slate and pencil industry. Many of the slate and pencil making units in Madhya Pradesh have installed dust extraction system to control silica dust. The State Government has also arranged for occupational health survey. A new schedule has been included in the M. P. Factory Rules for protection of health and safety of workers working in Slate Pencil Industry. M.P. Slate Pencil Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1982 has also been enacted for the welfare of these workers and their families. The Slate Pencil establishments in M. P. located in Mandsaur District which were earlier not covered by the Factories Act, 1948 have since been declared as factories under Section 85 of that Act.

(c) The information is being collected from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Closure of textile mills in Indore and Ratlam

761. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) since how long the Hope Textile Mill at Indore and Sajjan Mill at Ratlam are lying closed;

(b) whether Government are taking any fresh initiative to start these mills and provide some relief to the workers who have been rendered jobless;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what is the attitude of Government in regard to restoring of these mills, either by take-over|nationalisation or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) M|s. Hope Textiles Limited. Indore and M|s. Shri Sajjan Mills, Ratlam, are lying closed since June, 1986 and February, 1986 respectively.

(b) and (c) The Nodal Agency which has been set up to examine sick textile units in order to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not, has come to the conclusion that Hope Textile Mills, Indore and Shri Sajjan Mills, Ratlam are non-viable. Such non-viablle Mills, as laid down in the June, 1985 Textile Policy, may have to close down permanently and their workers will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, provided the units closed down permanently on or after 6th June, 1985.

(b) Government do not propose to either take or nationalise these mills. The State Governent, if they so desire, may nationalise these mills.

Beedi workers

762. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of beedi workers in various States of the country;

(b) whether any fresh welfare measures have been initiated by Government to prevent exploitation of Beedi workers and to ameliorate their economic and social conditions; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in various States is indicated in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)